

SECTION IV. 5. **Companion Services**

A. Definition

“Companion Services” include non-medical care, supervision and socialization provided to individuals on a short-term basis, who are unable to care for themselves and are socially isolated.

B. Companion Standards

Companion Services providers who manage and supervise companion employees must be authorized to provide Choices for Care (CFC) services by the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) and comply with the following:

1. All Applicable State and/or Federal Rules and Regulations
2. Consumer and Surrogate-Directed Employer Responsibilities (Consumer/Surrogate Employers only) as outlined in the Employer Handbook.
3. CFC Universal Provider Qualifications and Standards (*Section III.*)
4. CFC Services Principles (*Section IV. B.*)

C. Provider Types

The following providers types are approved to provide Companion Services when authorized by DAIL and identified on the individuals Service Plan:

1. Home Health Agencies (*as defined by State statute*)
2. Certified Consumer or Surrogate Directed Employers
3. Vermont Senior Companion Program

D. Approved Activities

1. Limited Personal Care or Household Tasks
2. Supervision
3. Socialization

E. Limitations

1. Companion Services as defined in this section are limited to individuals approved by DAIL for services in the Home-Based setting.

2. Companion Services are limited to a maximum of 720 hours per calendar year in combination with Respite Care Services.
3. Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) shall be limited by the skills and abilities of employees providing companion services, as determined by the provider.
4. Companion workers with a substantiated record of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child or a vulnerable adult shall not be paid to provide CFC Personal Care Services (*DAIL Background Check Policy, April 1, 2006*).
5. Companion workers who have been excluded from participation in Medicaid or Medicare services, programs, or facilities by the federal Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General shall not be paid to provide CFC Personal Care Services (*DAIL Background Check Policy, April 1, 2006*).
6. Companion workers who have a criminal conviction for an offense involving bodily injury, abuse of a vulnerable person, a felony drug offense, or a property/money crime involving violation of a position of trust shall not be paid to provide CFC Personal Care Services (*DAIL Background Check Policy, April 1, 2006*).
7. A spouse or a Civil Union partner shall not be paid to provide respite care services.
8. A legal guardian, appointed by probate court, shall not be paid to provide respite care services.
9. Companion Services shall not be provided to a participant while out of the state of Vermont for more than 7 consecutive days.
10. Consumer or Surrogate-Directed employees must be 18 years of age or older.
11. A surrogate employer shall not be paid to provide Companion Services.
12. CFC shall not be used to provide Companion Services that are otherwise being purchased privately or paid for through another funding source.